

PRESIDENT: This will be a private company in the sense that it will be registered under the Joint Stock Companies Acts. Government will be allowed to hold 51% of the shares and will be the biggest shareholder of the company.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I want to know whether the Government have their officers on the staff of the Company?

PRESIDENT: Persons having the largest number of shares have the general policy and the direction of the company in their hands.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Government exercise any control regarding the Fertilizers and Chemicals in Alwaye in regard to appointment?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. It is irrelevant. The answer is yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether cement is being sold to the public at reasonable prices?

PRESIDENT: Cement is being sold under the orders of the Government of India and under the direction of the Honorary Cement Adviser to the Government of India.

Travancore Minerals Co. Ltd.

116. ***MR. K. A. MAHOMED** (*Quilon cum Kottarakkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) when the lease agreement with the Travancore Minerals Co., Ltd., terminated;

(b) whether the Government have entered into any new agreement with the Company;

(c) whether the Company are still carrying on mining operations; and

(d) the conditions under which the Company continue to mine.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (a) On the 15th November 1943.

(b) & (d) A provisional arrangement has been made with the Company pending the implementing of the Company's undertaking to carry on further processing of mineral sands wholly or in part in Travancore and subject to certain revised conditions as to payment of royalty and a share of the net profits.

(c) Yes.

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: May I know from the Government whether this provision is still in force?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the indiscriminate working of the Mineral Company is not endangering the coastal area?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The whole problem is being investigated.

PRESIDENT: I may mention to the honourable House that I will be making a statement immediately after the question time on the matter, and on the policy of this Government with regard to the mineral sands.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the Government whether there was any representation from the public of Karunagapally complaining against the dangerous consequences of the present methods of operation?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes Sir. Complaints were received and investigations were made.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (Kunnatnād cum Parur): May I know whether any order has been issued to the Company for the temporary stopping of mining in coastal areas?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Temporary stopping has been effected but not complete stopping.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Will not the monsoon create an emergency situation in Karunagapally due to the working of the mineral companies?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Government are aware of it, and urgent investigations are being made.

Backward Communities and Government Service.

117 ***MR. BRHAMAPURAM P. YESUDIAN (Nominated):** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the existing rules governing recruitment to the Public Service, it is well-nigh impossible for backward class Christians to gain entrance into Government service;

(b) if so, whether the Government has adopted any measures to remedy this disability on the part of backward class Christians.

MR. S. N. URE (Public Service Commissioner): (a) No.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a) this does not arise. The whole question will come up for review shortly.

Compost Manure.

118 ***MR. P. M. VARGHESE (Minachil cum Thodupuzha):** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of compost manure was made by the Agricultural Department in the year 1119.

(b) whether there is any stock made available for sale in any of the manure depots in Travancore, and

(c) if the answer is in the affirmative, where are the places and what is the price per ton of manure?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (Director of Agriculture): (a) 2,19,716 c. ft. or approximately 4,000 tons, by the various Municipalities under the direction of the Bio-Chemist.

(b) Yes. The manure is available for sale in the compost depots under the various Municipalities.